

REMARKS

The allowance of claims 6 - 8, 14, 15 and 22 and the indication that claim 19 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is acknowledged.

By the present amendment, claim 19 which was dependent upon claim 16 has been written in independent form incorporating the features of parent claim 16 therein with claims 16 - 18 being canceled. Furthermore, dependent claim 23 has been amended to depend from claim 19 such that applicants submit that by the present amendment, objected to claim 19, which has been written in independent form, should now be in condition for allowance together with claim 23 which depends therefrom.

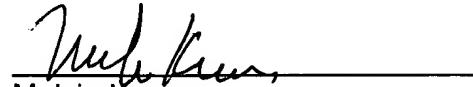
As to the rejection of claims 16 - 18 and 23 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent # 6,456,266 in view of US Patent # 6,039,255, such rejection is considered to be obviated by the cancellation of claims 16 - 18, the rewriting of claim 19 in independent form and the amendment of claim 23 to depend from claim 19. Accordingly, discussion of the cited art in relation to such claims is considered unnecessary.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants submit that all claims remaining in this application, i.e., claims 6 - 8, 14, 15, 19, 22 and 23 should now be in condition for allowance and issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicant's petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing

of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135
(500.40285X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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